THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Tenth Plan allocation for environmental research & its management in the Ministry is Rs. 178 crores.

(b) to (d) Financial assistance is provided to various Research institutions/universities including Non-Government Organizations to carry out environmental Research. These organizations have full freedom to carry out research as per the specified objective and plan to work.

Phasing out of mercury

4040. SHRI P.R.RAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much tonnes of mercury is being imported to the country;

(b) whether his Ministry would implement some regulations to phase out his toxic metal from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry 155.43 tonnes of mercury has been imported during 2005-06 into the country.

(b) and (c) At present there is not proposal to regulate phase out of mercury.

Global warming

4041. SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been mooted by the Chairman of the Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change to set up a high -level taskforce to deal with the emerging climate- change scenario in the wake of first plant of IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report;